

AUGUST 3, 1978

BASEBALL GETS A RECORD!
(INSERT IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: THE MOST EXCITING PART OF ANY BASEBALL SEASON IN THE UNITED STATES - AS BASEBALL TRADITION DICTATES - IS THE LAST MONTH, SEPTEMBER, WHEN THE BEST TWO TEAMS OF BOTH MAJOR LEAGUES PLAY TO DETERMINE THE WORLD CHAMPIONS. TO THE AVID BASEBALL FAN, THAT IS WHEN THE REAL ACTION TAKES PLACE. BUT THIS BASEBALL SEASON HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTION. FOR THE LAST SIX WEEKS, ONE MAN HAS BROUGHT RENEWED EXCITEMENT BACK TO THE GAME THAT HAS, IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, BEEN CALLED SLOW AND DULL. VOA'S DAVID BORGIDA HAS THE DETAILS.

NARR : WHEN PETE ROSE STARTED HIS MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CAREER SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, HIS TEAMMATES REGARDED HIM AS SOMEWHAT OF AN ODDITY. BRASH AND DETERMINED, EVER THE "HUSTLER", HE RAN WHEN MOST WALKED, DOVE WHEN MOST SIMPLY STRETCHED. HIS CINCINNATI REDS TEAMMATES, AND SPORTS WRITERS AS WELL, THOUGHT HE TRIED TOO HARD. HISTORY WAS FULL OF SUCH PLAYERS, THEY THOUGHT; THIS MAN HAD NO PLACE IN "MODERN" BASEBALL.

HOW WRONG THEY WERE. TODAY, AT AGE THIRTY-SEVEN, OVER-RIPE FOR MOST PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYERS, PETE ROSE HAS MADE HIS OWN PLACE IN HISTORY. THIS SEASON HE BATTED SUCCESSFULLY IN FORTY-FOUR CONSECUTIVE GAMES, THE SECOND BEST HITTING RECORD IN THE HISTORY OF THE SPORT, WHICH WAS INVENTED BACK IN 1839.

DURING HIS CAREER, PETE ROSE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST PLAYERS IN BASEBALL. AND IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS, HE HAS CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF THE SPORTS-MINDED AND NON-SPORTS-MINDED AMERICAN

NARR: PUBLIC AS HE SOUGHT TO BREAK THE FIFTY-SIX GAME STREAK SET BY
(CONT) JOE DIMAGGIO IN 1941. RECORD-BREAKING CROWDS TURNED OUT IN
MANY OF THE CITIES IN WHICH HIS TEAM PLAYED. AS HIS DRAMATIC
HITTING STREAK REACHED TWENTY-FIVE, THEN THIRTY-FIVE, THEN
FORTY, HIS PROGRESS WAS WATCHED IN THIS COUNTRY LIKE THE MAJOR
NEWS EVENT THAT IT WAS.

AND WHEN IT ENDED THIS WEEK AT FORTY-FOUR GAMES, PETE ROSE
WAS PHILOSOPHICAL AND HUMBLE AS HE SPOKE TO REPORTERS:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- ROSE

"I TOLD YOU IT WAS GOING TO COME TO AN END SOME TIME. I DON'T
KNOW IF I'VE GOT ENOUGH YEARS TO PUT ANOTHER FORTY-FOUR GAME
STREAK (TOGETHER). I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE FURTHERED THE
HITTING STREAK JUST BECAUSE I THINK IT'S INTERESTING AND
STIMULATES A LOT OF INTEREST FOR BASEBALL. I WOULD REALLY LIKE
TO HAVE SEEN WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF IT'D GOTTEN UP INTO
THE FIFTIES, BUT FORTY-FOUR ISN'T BAD, I GUESS."

NARR: SPORTS EXPERTS SAY HITTING SUCCESSFULLY IN SO MANY CONSECUTIVE
BASEBALL GAMES IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN
SPORT TODAY. AND MANY SAY IT'LL BE YEARS BEFORE SOMEONE MATCHES
PETE ROSE'S SUMMER OF 1978. THEY MAY WELL BE CORRECT ON THE
FIRST POINT... BUT ON THE SECOND, THEY'LL GET AN ARGUMENT FROM
AT LEAST ONE PERSON. PETE ROSE IS ALREADY AIMING FOR FORTY-FIVE
CONSECUTIVE GAMES NEXT SUMMER.

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WH/PY